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An Apple for Charles Darwin

Franklin Dickey

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I
At Sunday school
They used to carry in a wooden cake
While we sang happy birthday
And blew the candles out.
You couldn't eat that angel food:
I guess before the Fall
You could have cut the cake.

II
This year is a year of Dedication,
This year and every year
We commemorate
Our Common Ancestor.
And from which side, Soapy,
Did you come, leaping and
Gibbering?
Both
Is the right answer,
And Both being omnivorous
Ate all the apples they could get.
We still do:
Let us eat in perpetual Memory
Of them.

III
One bite of apple
One crumb
Would have been enough
And Lucifer had bushels.
No price was the Just Price
But now All is Dear
Nothing is Cheap
Bought with your blood,
Our blood
His Blood—
My Dears.

—Franklin Dickey

"Soapy," of course, refers to Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, so called by his intimates, whom the Lord delivered into the hands of Thomas Henry Huxley in a debate wherein the prelate had impudently asked which side of Huxley's family had descended from the Monkey.